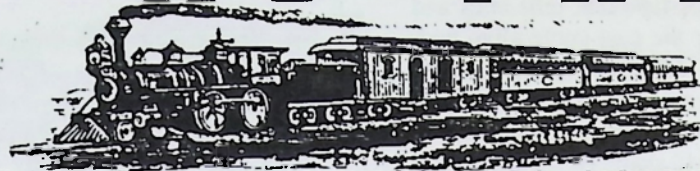


MAKING TRACKS



BIG BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 1997 ISSUE

COME VISIT THE CABOOSE MUSEUM

The Caboose - Museum attracts many visitors from far and near. What attracts them, is as diverse as the visitors themselves. Some are local citizens who remember the caboose from it's logging days and was part of the Medco's rolling stock. A few were loggers, who used to ride to their logging site on it, others are railroad buffs who enjoy its historical value.

Many visitors are children, who are eager to learn about local history. They particularly like the story which the panels of the musket relate.

One recent caboose visitor mentioned that he used to ride this caboose to his logging sites. He said that it's beautifully restored and that it looks much better now than when it was part of the logging train.

There have been visitors from the distant shores of Japan, New Zealand and Italy, as well as from many of our fifty states.

What can be seen in our caboose? Visitors will see two outstanding carvings by local artist, Bill Edmondson, a long-time Butte Falls resident. One of these carvings called "The Rigging Crew", shows three riggers with ropes getting logs ready to load. The other carving shows a very life-like horse

inside an oval with a various plant background and it is carved out of many different types of wood.

There are also working replicas of a typical sawmill steamplant and of a Smith and Watson steam donkey. They were built also by Bill Edmondson. This same artist provided us with many drawings of one-room schoolhouses which had been in use in and around Butte Falls in earlier days.

One can also see various railroad lanterns, a telegraph sending and receiving set of the type commonly used on railroads, an old-fashioned candlestick telephone, a for for cutting shingles, a brush ax, a practice bayonet, a cannon ball, a railroad jack, and multiple other items relating to life in Butte Falls and it's surrounding area.

There is also an assortment of photographs of the past and the present on display. The collection of postcards and greeting cards dating back as far as 1908 is of great interest to many of our lady visitors. Running along the center of the caboose is a hand-made rug runner, made by Imogene Abbott during the early 1940's. It had been used for many years in Butte Falls' Little Brown Church. The above mentioned are just a few of the many interesting exhibits which can be seen at the Caboose - Museum.

Kaete Thompson



Pictured above: Kaete Thompson greets visitors at Caboose

AN ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION OF STORIES & POEMS ABOUT THE EARLY DAYS IN BUTTE FALLS

BBHS plans on producing a cassette tape that tells tales and anecdotes of days gone by — hear the past come alive with “good old days” stories and poems dedicated to the working men and women of the bygone logging era. These are tales that are meant to take the listener from laughter to tears. Let us know if you have a story or poem to share. We want to hear your story.

Tape #1 — Logging in the Good Old Days

Tape #2 — Life in the Town in the Good Old Days

Contact: Big Butte Historical Society
Joyce Hailicka 865-3205

We hope that your stories will inspire others to share their own. But where does one start? You might want to start by jotting down some of the stories that come to mind first. Every story is unique and is an important part of who you are and what it means to have lived in Butte Falls through the years.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Marjorie Edens, Community Relations Representative, from the Southern Oregon Historical Society, is providing technical assistance and attends all meetings of the Big Butte Historical Society and other community-based historical societies.

Currently, Marjorie is working on a grant to create a plan to increase teacher, family, and community participation in the History Day program.

BBHS is particularly grateful to see the collaborative efforts which SOHS is undertaking with the rural historical societies under the leadership of Brad Linder, Director of SOHS.

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BBHS MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Historical Society meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library. We encourage you to attend, to express your opinions regarding the function, projects and fundraisers of the organization.

Support provided in part by the Jackson County Historical Fund

CAPTURING THE BEAUTY OF BUTTE FALLS THROUGH THE EYE OF THE CAMERA

Late spring and early summer on the western slope of the Cascades is a symphony of color and form-perfect subject matter to capture on film. Set against the backdrop of Mt. McLoughlin and the beautiful Rogue River National Forest, Butte Falls makes a lovely subject for the photographer or would-be photographer.

Lovely sun-filled afternoons, fields that explode with colors of brilliant yellows, purples, and greens invite you to grab your camera, film, and a sack lunch and enjoy the photographic opportunities Butte Falls has to offer and the other quiet pleasures you'll discover for yourself. Drawing on your own experiences, memories, and interests is a way to share your life with family and friends for years to come.

My First Camera: Butte Falls Photography Class for Children Ages 8 - 12

What's your favorite subject to photograph? Animals? People? Landscape? Pictures are much more fun to take when you know the basics of taking a good picture.

This class is designed for young people who want to learn how to take better photographs and learn some basics about equipment, lighting, and choosing a subject to photograph, using disposable camera with color print film.

In the class, we will look at photographs to see what makes a “good” picture and why some things don't work very well.

A field trip around downtown Butte Falls is planned to practice what is learned in class. Students will have their photographs evaluated in the second class. Instructor will discuss what “works” and doesn't in their shots.

To register, call Cory Hamann at 865-3310 or stop by either museum.

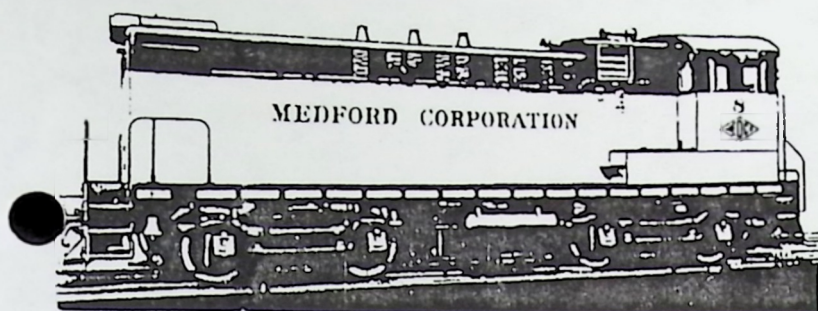
BOARD MEMBERS

Cory Hamann
Bev Carrillo

Joyce Hailicka

Dan Murphy
Gloria Karches

BIG BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICE AND NEW CABOOSE HOURS
FRIDAY 1-4 P.M., SATURDAY 10 - 4 P.M. AND SUNDAY 1-4 P.M.
HOSTESS: KAETE THOMPSON 865-3333



ALL ABOARD Train Restoration Underway

Butte Falls' colorful historic past actually began around 1910 with the arrival of the railroad. This part of our history is gone, but not forgotten. The Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society has been working to bring back the Medco train in working order.

The train is intended to provide a glimpse of the past in a unique and interesting way. Residents and visitors would board the train in Butte Falls. Against the scenic backdrop of beautiful Mt. McLoughlin, tracks would be constructed along the rail line that fed the area and valley with timber for many years.

Medco #8, an original diesel locomotive, has been obtained and is in its final stages of restoration in Albany, Oregon. Box cars and caboose have been obtained by donation from a resident of Ashland. A new generator is still needed for the engine. the cost - - approximately \$10,000 which still needs to be raised. The Southern Oregon Chapter will seek right-of-way to rebuild and run the railroad on the original grade.

We are grateful to the marvelous members of the Chapter for their hard work and dedication to this project. We are confident that #8 will be running again in Butte Falls.

"Where Love Blooms" The Children's Garden

The Children's Garden is in its second season at the E.W. Smith House. The flowers are beginning to bloom and so is "love" as the children begin to plant vegetables with Gloria Karches. The garden makes a lovely setting for children to learn planting and gardening.

A T-shirt design contest will produce a shirt with children's artwork as the focus. Come by the museum and see the winning design.



MYSTERY PHOTO: CAN YOU TELL US WHO THESE TWO PEOPLE ARE AND THE OCCASION OR DATE OF PHOTO:



SHORT HISTORY OF THE BUTTE FALLS RANGER DISTRICT

When you walk or drive through the town of Butte Falls along Laurel Street, you can't miss the Old Forest Service ranger station compound on the west side of the street. Mortared-lava foundations, multi-pane windows, "rustic" -style decorative details, and other architectural clues indicate that these buildings were the result of Civilian Conservation Corps construction efforts during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

President Franklin Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps in the first days of his New Deal administration, in order to put thousands of unemployed young men to work. The C.C.C. boys (or "C's" as they were often known) worked on countless projects on National Forests and National Parks throughout the American West. Here, on the Butte Falls Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest, C.C.C. crews built many miles of trails and roads, replanted old burns, developed new campgrounds (such as those at Whiskey Springs, Parker Meadows, and Snowshoe), and helped construct the ranger station in town.

The C.C.C. crews (made up of young men from all over the country) lived at "Camp South Fork" (previously a railroad logging camp called "Camp Two"), in barracks under the command of military officers. They made about \$30 a month in wages, of which all but \$5 went back home to support their families. (The ranger station project also provided work for local adult men who were not in the Civilian Conservation Corps. It was an economic "shot in the arm" for a community that had been hard hit by the Depression).

What about before the C.C.C.'s? Historically, the Butte Falls Ranger District has included all National Forest land stretching between the Middle Fork of the Rogue River and Fish Lake. The 1936 ranger station built by the C.C.C. finally gave local Forest Service employees a permanent place to hang their hats in the town of Butte Falls. Before that time — dating from initial establishment of the National Forest shortly after 1900 on through the early 1930's — the Butte Falls

Ranger District was administered from a variety of places: temporary offices in the town, seasonal locations out in the forest (such as Big Elk Guard Station), even all the way from an office in Medford.

The Butte Falls Ranger Station is now recognized as one of the finest examples of C.C.C. - built Forest Service architecture remaining in the Pacific Northwest. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jeff LaLande

CURRENT MEMBERS OF BBHS

Dan and Betty Mc Kenna
Jim and Linda Matthews
Brian and Julie York
Roberta Sortland
Don and Cory Hamann
Ervin Mesloh
Daniel Murphy
Arlen and Nellie Ragsdale
Dan and Lois Hamann
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Ron and Diana Lyon
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Geraldine Powell
John and Elaine Isley
Wil Trout
Frank and Dottie Villa

To become a member of the Big Butte Historical Society, simply send a check for \$5.00 annual membership fee, to P.O. Box 379, Butte Falls, OR 97522. You will be on our mailing list and will receive a quarterly newsletter, such as this. You may want to send a gift membership to a friend or relative. Please include your name and the name and address of the person you are sending it to.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - \$5.00 per household

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Send to: BIG BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 379
Butte Falls, OR 97522

